



# Smithsonian Institution

Office of General Counsel

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: 5481-06566138@requests.muckrock.com

May 8, 2013

Michael Morisy  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 5281  
P.O. Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: Your Request for Smithsonian Records (request number 39865)

Dear Mr. Morisy:

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) acknowledges your request, dated and received in this Office on May 6, 2013, for Smithsonian response letters sent to Congressional committees between January 1, 2008 and the present. OGC will initiate a search for responsive documents.

Please be advised that the Smithsonian responds to requests for records in accordance with its written policy, *Requests for Smithsonian Institution Information*. A copy of this policy is available on the Smithsonian website at [si.edu/about/foia](http://si.edu/about/foia). The Smithsonian applies a presumption of disclosure when processing records requests, subject to applicable exemptions stated in its policy.

The Smithsonian makes every effort to provide responses to records requests as quickly as possible, taking into account the complexity of each request and that requests are handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track.<sup>1</sup> Because your request requires a search in another office, it has been assigned to the complex track. Staff may contact you to discuss clarifying your request if it appears to be written too broadly to initiate a reasonable search.

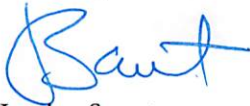
We have determined that your request does not qualify for a fee waiver and that you fall within the non-media, non-commercial fee category under the Smithsonian's records disclosure policy, which is available at the "Fees" link at [si.edu/about/foia](http://si.edu/about/foia). Therefore, you are entitled to two free hours of search time and one hundred pages of records without incurring search or duplication charges. Beyond the two free hours of search time, you will be required to pay for additional search time incurred at the cost of \$28 for each hour spent by professional personnel in obtaining these records. Duplication fees beyond one hundred pages will be assessed at fifteen cents per page. Should we need to exceed the two free hours of search time, we will inform you before proceeding as per your request.

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<sup>1</sup> Incoming requests are assigned to one of three tracks as specified in the Smithsonian's disclosure policy. Simple requests usually receive a response in less than a month, whereas complex requests necessarily take longer. In an effort to speed up our records search and response time, you may wish to contact us to narrow the scope of your request.

Please feel free to contact me at 202.633.5115 if you have questions or have not received a final response to your request within ninety business days. You may refer to your file by your name or request number, which is 39865.

Sincerely,



Jessica Sanet  
Assistant General Counsel